



STUDENT LED SOCIETY POLICY

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MISSION OF THE POLICY

The aim is to utilise the intellectual and inventive capabilities of student-led organisations at Baku State University (BSU) in order to effectively engage them in the university's dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and bolster BSU's sustainability standing.

CURRENT SITUATION

- **The "Student-Youth Organisation" (SYO)**, which was founded in 2005, has evolved into a fundamental entity for fostering student involvement at BSU. The wide array of programmes offered by the institution, which encompass activities such as faculty meetings, event coordination, charitable initiatives, and concert planning, exemplify the capacity for comprehensive student engagement.
- **The "Union of Independent Students" (UIS)**: The UIS, which consists of over 13,000 members engaged in a master-student relationship, is an officially recognised organisation that adheres to democratic values and promotes fairness and inclusiveness. In addition to serving as a safeguard for student rights, they

also actively participate in academic pursuits, athletic competitions, and cultural exhibitions, so serving as a prominent platform for student expression and personal growth.

- **The organization "BSU Volunteers"**, operational since 2019, unites about 1,000 volunteer students. Through active participation in a wide range of events and actions, they serve as an instrumental pillar of social and civic engagement within the university and the larger community.
- **The Council of Young Scientists**, a voluntary consortium of proactive students and young researchers, offers a platform for developmental, international, and commercial research. They actively engage in scientific pursuits, international activities, media strategy, and the commercialization of scientific endeavors.
- Acting as a pivotal participant in BSU's research activities, **the Student Scientific Society** facilitates various research-based initiatives, competitions, seminars, and collaborations. Their focus lies in coordinating faculty-specific scientific societies and enhancing the quality of educational and research pursuits.
- The Scientific Council at the university comprises members from diverse student and youth organizations, including the Student-Youth Organization and the Student Trade Union Committee. These committed individuals actively engage in the council's regular sessions.
- BSU places particular emphasis on nurturing young talent. As a result, key positions such as the Advisor to the Rector for Digitalization, Advisor to the Rector for Quality Assurance, and the heads of departments including the Department of Technology Transfer and Innovations, Educational Process Organization Department, Educational Process Management Department, Student Scientific and Technical Creative Center, International Students Office and so on are occupied by young specialists, with a majority of them being graduates of BSU.
- Throughout the exam session, BSU establishes an examination oversight body composed of students. Students can reach out to this oversight body in case of exam-related complaints, and it also serves as the monitoring authority for the examinations.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE SDGS

- The involvement of the UIS in academic activities and the SYO's advocacy for structured student engagement in faculty meetings and events are directly linked

to the goal of achieving inclusive and equitable quality education, as outlined in SDG 4.

- SDG 10, which focuses on Reduced Inequalities, is supported by both SYO and UIS, with UIS placing particular emphasis on the values of fairness and equal rights to foster inclusivity. This implies a fundamental agreement with the objectives of mitigating disparities.
- Collaborative Efforts towards Goal Attainment (SDG 17): Considering the organisational framework of UIS that facilitates active engagement in university administration, coupled with the foundational nature of SYO, the capacity for both entities to establish internal and external collaborations is substantial.

WEAKNESSES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT

Weaknesses:

- The lack of formal SDG training remains evident, despite the extensive range of activities and diverse participation from various organisations. Although students engage in activities that indirectly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is a missed opportunity in failing to provide them with explicit information about these goals. The absence of adequate training may lead to the oversight of possible synergies and the failure to fully capitalise on opportunities to conform to international standards.
- Resource allocation: The University has acknowledged the potential of student-led organisations and has allocated resources to support them. Nevertheless, the lack of a dedicated provision for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) suggests a more responsive rather than proactive stance towards sustainability. By allocating resources particularly for initiatives that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University may establish a systematic and cohesive approach to addressing these global objectives.

Opportunities:

- The integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) inside student-led organisations enables a comprehensive approach towards sustainability.
- Provide organisations with the necessary expertise and resources to engage in activities linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Evaluate the influence of student-led initiatives on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Encourage collaborative efforts among different academic disciplines to address the complex and diverse Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Foster collaboration with external stakeholders to enhance the overall influence and effectiveness of the project.

SDG-ALIGNED SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM PERIOD ACTIVITIES 2030:

Short-term SDG-aligned actions (2023 - 2026):

a. Quality Education (SDG 4):

Action 1: By the year 2025, aim to integrate an student organizations' agenda that is centred around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or encompass SDG-related themes in 70% of the programmes and events.

b. Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10):

Action 2: By the conclusion of 2024, strive to guarantee that 60% of student-led activities actively foster inclusive practises.

Action 3: Entails the implementation of a programme no later than 2024, which seeks to augment the accessibility of financial assistance for students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. The objective is to achieve a notable 30% rise in the number of beneficiaries by the year 2026.

c. Partnerships to Achieve the Goals (SDG 17):

Action 4: By the year 2025, aim to develop collaborative connections with five international institutions by means of student-led organisations.

Action 5: To build partnerships between student-led organisations and a combined total of 8 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governmental bodies, and business entities by the year 2026.

d. Climate Action (SDG 13):

Action 6: To attain a reduction of 25% in the carbon footprint linked to student-led events by the year 2024.

Action 7: to execute a cumulative count of five student-led initiatives by the year 2025, with a specific emphasis on addressing the pressing concern of climate change.

e. Life Below Water (SDG 14) & Life on Land (SDG 15):

Action 8: To achieve the execution of three student-led initiatives annually, with a specific focus on the conservation of local biodiversity and marine life, by the year 2024.

Action 9: To attain a reduction of 20% in the utilisation of single-use plastics by the year 2024.

Long-term SDG-aligned Targets (2027 - 2030):

a. Quality Education (SDG 4):

Action 10: Establish an annual scholarly conference centred on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commencing in 2027, offering a forum for students to showcase their research discoveries.

b. Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10):

Action 11: Further implementation and expansion based on the outcomes of the financial aid program initiated in the short term.

c. Partnerships to Achieve the Goals (SDG 17):

Action 12: To achieve full implementation of collaborative partnerships with a cumulative count of ten international institutions by the year 2030.

Action 13: the objective is to build partnerships between student-led organisations and a combined total of 15 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governmental bodies, and business entities by the year 2030.

d. Climate Action (SDG 13):

Action 14: the objective is to attain a 50% reduction in the carbon -emissions linked to student-led events by the year 2030.

Action 15: To enhance the breadth and influence of climate-centric initiatives led by students, it is imperative to leverage the insights and experiences gained through the attainment of short-term objectives.

e. Life Below Water (SDG 14) & Life on Land (SDG 15):

Action 16: The conservation-focused efforts will be continued and expanded based on the success of the short-term aims.

Action 17: it is important to further analyse and evaluate its significance within the context being examined. The objective is to attain a reduction of 40% in the use of single-use plastics by the year 2025, with the ultimate goal of totally eradicating their usage by 2030.

Execution of the Policy:

- **Alignment:** Organisations incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their annual strategic plans.
- **Professional Development:** Semi-annual workshops facilitated by experts in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Reporting:** A standardised framework outlining actions relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Collaboration:** Annual symposiums on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fostering interdisciplinary initiatives.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborative relationships with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governmental entities, and private enterprises.

Resource Allocation

- The SDG Innovation Fund provides financial resources to support projects driven by students that are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Establish SDG Hubs equipped with technology and logistical resources.
- Provision of a diverse group of mentors with specialised knowledge in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Monitoring:

- The establishment of an independent committee to conduct annual impact evaluations.
- The implementation of constructive feedback loops within organisations.
- The Annual BSU SDG Excellence Awards are designed to acknowledge and honour noteworthy efforts made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Targets

a. By Students:

- Facilitate the organisation and execution of comprehensive campaigns across the campus with the aim of boosting awareness and understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Engage in collaborative research endeavours that encompass several disciplines and are centred around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Facilitate workshops and training sessions led by students, with a focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Establish strategic partnerships with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), local enterprises, and other relevant organisations to collectively pursue sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- Enact activities that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to tackle tangible issues within the immediate community.

b. By University Management:

- Establish a comprehensive approach to combine courses or modules that address the many aspects of the SDGs across different faculties.
- Designate financial resources exclusively for student initiatives and research aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- One potential strategy for promoting infrastructure development is the establishment of specialised spaces or centres that are specifically designed to foster innovation and collaboration in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Organise periodic workshops including subject matter specialists in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for student organisations.
- Encourage the establishment of alliances with international universities and organisations to facilitate student exchange programmes and collaborative efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The institute offers awards or recognition programmes to commend exceptional student-led projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Establish a platform to foster connections between student organisations and mentors from academic and corporate backgrounds, with a specific focus on providing advice related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Enforce standardised SDG reporting protocols for all student-led initiatives.

